

In many of our topics we focus on prevention in school and community or showing how we are all connected.

JOEL FELION: We have teen leaders which initiate and head a project. There are team members who do network on the project and get it ready, and there are participants who are in school who have not worked on the project but received direct benefit and then there are recipients who are on the outskirts, they are not picking up anything directly but they still benefit from our program and our influence.

HILLARY KNAPP: We would like to present to you this binder showing some of the things that we have done, and we would like to thank you for having us. And the next presentation is about our Power of Choice Day which was held on May 3rd.

Chris Bullard, Becki Kenyon, Jenn Bearor, Angel Boise and Hillary Knapp

REGARDING POWER OF CHOICE—MAY 26, 2000

CHRIS BULLARD: Hi. My name is Chris Bullard and I am here to go over the concept of the Power of Choice Day. Through attending many conferences with GMPP and GLSP we were always greatly influenced on what we had saw or what we had done, so we decided it would be good for the entire school to have something like that. We began brainstorming ideas last year. As we began brainstorming, the ideas just kept flowing. In February of this year we finally had enough on paper to present it to our administration. It was a go for May 3rd. The Power of Choice was named an all day, schoolwide conference offering teens at Otter Valley Union High School an opportunity to learn, interact and discuss problems and issues that teens face 3 today. And now I am going to turn over to these two.

BECKI KENYON: Hi. I am Becki. Here you have a Power of Choice flyer or pamphlet you can use and it would help. Could you please take it out just to look at it? It should be in one of the pockets.

JENN BEAROR: The meaning of this day was to give awareness to our peers about alcohol and drugs and peer pressure and to let them make their own decisions. We have a group of us called the SOS Players which emphasized on all types of issues that teens face today. We also had the pleasure to have a couple of peers from Mountain View come as well as many celebrities, like the Middlebury Men's and Women's Hockey Team, and all of this was possible by the funding of grants from the Governor's Highway Safety Program, New Direction, OBCC, Refuse to Abuse, and many more.

BECKI KENYON: In the back of the program we had different workshops that our students went to throughout the day, and some of those workshops are Addiction and Intervention, Dealing with Tragedy, Health, Home and Phobia Resolves, Parties, Respecting Yourself, Does Your Body Meet Your Image, Healthy Habits. And the students gave different—well, it had their names on them for drawings throughout the day so we kind of rewarded them for coming and participating with us. And then in our school we have three different lunches which we use to invite different groups and which we go there.

We have also been working with several groups throughout the whole process. Some of these are Fine Family Resources, Vermont Liquor Control, OBCC, Trapp Coalition, Department of Health, VTLSF, GMPP, and all these groups working together helped us to meet the Vermont standards adopted by the state for all students in the state.

And we would like to turn it over to Angel.

ANGEL BOISE: As Becki Kenyon already said, my name is Angel Boise. I would just like to say we have received positive and negative comments about this day. We had several students absent that day because they thought they would be ineffective. The day had turned out to have a big impact on the faculty, students and community members. The students that missed Power of Choice realized that they had missed out on a great day. Some of the positive comments were that it was a wonderful day, it had a big impact and it was unbelievable. Thank you for all your time.

HILLARY KNAPP: It has been a privilege to be here today. As a small token of our appreciation, we would like to present you with our Otter Valley mascot, the otter, and it is from us at Otter Teen Network and Otter Valley Union High School.

### LITERACY INVOLVES FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2000*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman GOODLING for allowing me the opportunity to support this bill.

We are here today to consider H.R. 3222, the Literacy Involves Families Together Act. This bill ensures that family literacy programs like Even Start will continue to help many families break the cycle of literacy that often leads to poverty, unemployment, and dependency on federal support programs.

This country has come a long way since we were all children.

Although this nation has always placed an emphasis on education, we now live in an age when just having a high school education is not enough to prepare our children for the professional world. Global competition, the internet, and widespread use of technology all indicate that the economy of the 21st century will create new challenges for employers and workers. In order to attain that high quality of life we all strive for, the generations after us will need to meet higher educational standards.

But, in the course of attempting to ensure access to a college education for all who can benefit from it, we cannot forget about those less fortunate—the parents and children who, for whatever reason, have not yet mastered the basic yet essential skills of reading and writing.

H.R. 3222 would improve the quality of services provided under Even Start and other family literacy programs: By providing training and technical assistance to local providers, by requiring that instructional programs are based on scientific research on reading, by funding research on the teaching of reading to adults in family literacy and other adult education programs, and by establishing qualifications for instructional staff in Even Start programs—whose salaries are paid almost entirely with Even Start dollars.

In addition, I would also like to take a moment to express a few words for my colleague and dear friend BILL GOODLING.

The Education and the Workforce Committee was blessed the day BILL was elected to Congress. Drawing on his experiences as a coach, a high school principal, and a Superintendent of schools, BILL has always approached the issue of education with the interests of America's children at heart. H.R. 3222 is a monument and a fitting tribute to a man of honor, integrity, courage, and vision. As a member of the majority and minority, BILL has maintained his loyalty to our children, often in the face of fervid opposition by many who put their own special interests ahead of the well being of America's kids.

It has been my pleasure and honor to have known Mr. BILL GOODLING for 22 years, and I will miss him—as much as he misses his horses when he's in Washington—when he retires at the end of this session.

Again, I thank Chairman GOODLING for this opportunity to support H.R. 3222, and more importantly, for his participation and leadership as a Member of Congress, and as Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2000*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Tuesday, September 12, 2000, I was testifying before the Federal Electricity Regulatory Commission, which held a hearing in San Diego, CA, regarding our electricity rate crisis. Had I been able to be present for Rollcalls, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 460—"yea", Rollcall No. 461—"yea", Rollcall No. 462—"yea", Rollcall No. 463—"yea", Rollcall No. 464—"yea".

### IN RECOGNITION OF STEPFAMILY DAY IN MICHIGAN AND THE IM- PORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE STEPFAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**HON. DEBBIE STABENOW**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2000*

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Stepfamily Day, which is promoted by the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA) as a day to recognize and celebrate the importance of stepfamilies throughout our nation. On the 16th of September, stepfamilies will be coming together in Michigan and many other states to commemorate their special bonds.

Due to the efforts of Michigan's Christy Borgeld, Stepfamily Day founder and board member of the SAA, Stepfamily Day picnics will be held in Michigan and throughout the nation. Mr. Speaker, this event is but one example of the strides this organization has made in its dedication to the acceptance, support and success of stepfamily living. As it was so aptly put by Christy and the SAA:

Our nation has been blessed by thousands of loving stepparents and stepchildren who